18th September 1961]

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Even with regard to wet lands, in some places, a sum of Rs. 4 is collected and in other places a sum of Rs. 8 and even Rs. 12 is collected. May I know whether there is any proposal to levy the tax uniformly in all places?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : ஒழுங்காக ஒரு யூனிபாரம் வரி வரவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால் முடிவாக இப் பிரச்சனை தீர்க்கப்பட்டவுடன்தான் வரும். அதுவரையில் இப்போது தாற்காலிகமாக அடுத்து எப்படி இருக்கிறதோ அதைப் பார்த்துப் போட்டிருக்கிறோம். கொஞ்சம் வித்தியாசம் ஏற்பட்டாலும் ஏற்படலாம்.

SRI R. SRINIVASA IYER : கனம் அமைச்சர் அவர்கள் இனமாக உள்ளதற்குச் சொன்னார். நான் இனமாக இருந்து ரயத்துவாரி கிராமமாக மாற்றப்பட்டிருப்பதிலேயே கூட புஞ்சையை புஞ்சையாக வைத்துத் தண்ணீர் தீர்வையையும் தனியாக வைத்து வாங்கப்படுகிறதே, இது இரண்டையும் ஒன்றாக இணைத்து வைத்தால்—ரயத்துவாரியைவிட அதிக வித்தியாசம் இல்லாதபடி இருக்காதா ? அதற்கு உத்தரவு போடுவார்களா ?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : கனம் அங்கத்தினர் சொன்னது வேறு விஷயம். அதற்குத் தனியாகக் கேள்வி போட்டால் பதில் சொல்கிறேன்.

* 1583 *Q.*—SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the land tax was raised in Kanyakumari district this year ;

(*b*) if so, under what law and by how much ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that village officers are forced to collect this year's land tax during the first quarter in advance ; and

(*d*) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) & (*b*) : Under the Madras Coinage (Alteration of References) Act, 1960, sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Travancore-Cochin Land Tax Act, 1955, which is in force in Kanyakumari district, has been amended altering the rate of basic tax from three pies per cent of land per annum to two naye paise per cent of land per annum. The amendment has effect from 1-4-61. As a result of the amendment, the rate of basic tax per acre per annum in Kanyakumari district has increased by 44 nP.

(*c*) No such instructions were issued in this regard.

(*d*) Does not arise.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : May I know whether any circular was issued to the village officers to collect the annual tax in advance in the first quarter?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : No such instruction was issued.

SRI A. NESAMONY : May I know who amended the Land Tax Act? Was it the Kerala Legislative Assembly or this Assembly?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I have already stated in my answer that under the Madras Coinage Act, 1960, sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Travancore-Cochin Land Tax Act, 1955, which is in force in Kanyakumari district, has been amended, altering the rate of basic tax from three pies per cent of land per annum to two naye paise per cent of land per annum. The fact is that it has been amended. For the question, by whom it has been amended, I want notice.

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : May I know what is the difference in the collection per acre in respect of 1957–58 and this year?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Forty-four naye paise.

SRI T. T. DANIEL : In view of the fact that actually village officers are collecting the tax in advance in the first quarter, will the Government issue instructions to the Collector that they should not make such advance collections?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : No, Sir. The hon. Member may kindly write to me about it and I shall look into it.

SRI A. NESAMONY : Has it been brought to the notice of the Government that several provisions of the Land Tax Act have been declared void by the Supreme Court of India on the ground that they have been discriminatory and if so, whether the Government have proposed to take any action, to amend those provisions of the Act in the light of the decision of the Supreme Court?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Yes, Sir. I also heard about it. The matter is being looked into and necessary steps will be taken after considering the point, whether we should proceed on the basis of basic land tax or on any other basis?

SRI T. S. RAMASWAMI : May I know whether the Hon. Minister is in possession of information relating to the total collection of land tax in the first quarter of this year and in the previous year? May I also know whether any of the village officers were suspended for their failure to make full collection?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Arising from the main question, I shall not be able to answer these queries. If the hon. Member addressed me about it, I shall let him know it.

*Drinking water for Madras City*

* 1584 *Q.*—SRI A. A. RASHEED : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the present stage of the investigation of the scheme of bringing the Cauvery Waters to Madras city?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The investigation of the scheme is in progress.